

## NORTON NEWSLETTER July 2026 ISSUE No 573

**\*\* DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER ITEMS 18th of the month \*\***

### NEWSLETTER EMAIL

[nortonnewsletter24@hotmail.com](mailto:nortonnewsletter24@hotmail.com)

### NORTON SHOP WEBSITE

<https://www.nortonshop.co.uk>

### FESTIVAL WEBSITE

<https://www.nortonfestival.org>

### PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE

<https://nortonsubhamdon-pc.gov.uk>

### FRIENDS OF NORTON CHURCH WEBSITE

<https://nortonsubhamdonpc.co.uk/friends-of-norton-church>

### VILLAGE HALL WEBSITE

<http://nshvillagehall.co.uk>

**CRAFTY CRITTERS will be in the Reading Room on Mondays 6th and 20th July between 1.30 and 3.30pm.** Join us to work on your own project or make a poppy or two! No special skills needed – just a couple of hours of friendly chat. £2 per session including tea/coffee and biscuits. Thank you to everyone who has been busy knitting, crocheting and sewing poppies. As of 15th June we have over 470! There is a 'thermometer' in the shop showing our target of 1,000 – if we get more the display will be even more spectacular. Thanks again from Crafty Critters. Tricia 01935 882646

**MOBILE LIBRARY AND BOOK CLUB** will be in **Chiselborough opposite the village hall on Tuesday 7th July from 9.30 to 10.00am and in Higher Street, Norton, from 10.10 to 10.35am.** The book club meets the same day in the Reading Room. For more details contact Anne Fairweather on 01935 882620.

### PARISH COUNCIL REPORT JUNE 2026

**PLANNING** The Parish Council had no planning applications to consider for this month.

### MINCHINGTON RECREATION GROUND

Thank you, Norton – a wonderful community achievement. We are truly humbled by the kindness and generosity shown by the residents of Norton. Thanks to your wonderfully thoughtful donations, alongside the incredible support from Norton Community Matters and additional funding from the Parish Council, we are delighted to share that we have reached our target for the new

swings at Minchington Recreation Ground. This is fantastic news for our community. The swings have been ordered and will be installed as soon as possible, complete with the same fabulous eco-mulch surface we've installed at the main recreation ground play area. The Parish Council would like to extend its heartfelt thanks to everyone who contributed. Your generosity and community spirit make Norton a very special place to live, we are very fortunate. Thank you all. **AN INCREDIBLE SHOW OF COMMUNITY AND EMERGENCY SERVICE SUPPORT** The Parish Council would like to formally express its heartfelt thanks for the outstanding response and support during the incident in June involving a missing lady. A co-ordinated search was carried out by the police and emergency services, including officers on foot and horseback, a police helicopter, and the Mountain Rescue team. Their swift professional response was exceptional. We would also like to recognise the remarkable support from residents of Norton and surrounding villages whose help and willingness to assist were invaluable throughout. We are very relieved to report that the lady was found safe and was cared for in hospital.

**FOOD VAN VISITS TO NORTON** Thank you all for supporting the Somerset Catch Fish & Chip van on Monday 1st June – they were absolutely overwhelmed by the turnout! They sold out of almost everything (having brought around 80 portions) and were very grateful for your support – especially those who waited patiently in the appalling weather. The feedback from those lucky enough to get portions has been excellent. Somerset Catch will be returning on Monday 17th August and have promised to bring plenty more with them next time.

**SCRUMPTIOUS TAKEAWAY PIZZA NIGHT IN NORTON, MONDAY 6th JULY** We're delighted to welcome Marco and his fantastic wood-fired pizza trailer, *A Slice of Salerno*, to the village! Marco has built an amazing local reputation for his delicious, authentic pizzas using local ingredients. Now he's kindly added us to his rounds, so it's our turn to enjoy them right here in Norton. **Join us at Norton Car Park on Monday 6th July, 4pm to 8pm.** Why not give yourself the night off from cooking and treat yourself to an easy – and very tasty! – supper? Bring your appetite, we hope to see you there!

## **LANDOWNERS' RESPONSIBILITIES – FOOTPATHS**

The Parish Council would like to remind all landowners who have public footpaths crossing their land, or hedges alongside them, of their responsibility to ensure these routes are kept clear and safe for public use. Hedges and vegetation should be regularly trimmed back so that footpaths remain accessible and free from obstruction. While the planting of hedges for wildlife is welcomed and encouraged, it is important they are planted at a suitable distance from boundaries to prevent future encroachment onto footpaths. Over time, brambles and other vegetation can grow quickly across paths, creating trip hazards for walkers and, in some cases, making routes difficult to use. Keeping paths clear helps to ensure they remain safe and enjoyable for everyone in the community. Thank you for your co-operation in helping to maintain our local rights of way. We hope that by the time you read this, all the main footpaths around Norton will have been strimmed and will look much tidier for everyone to enjoy. Somerset Council is responsible for carrying out the first annual strim, while the Parish Council funds a second strim later in the year, now scheduled to take place in August.

The next monthly meeting will be held on **Monday 13th July at 7.30pm in the village hall committee room**. Louise Brooks (Clerk to Norton sub Hamdon Parish Council)  
[clerk@nortonsubhamdon-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@nortonsubhamdon-pc.gov.uk)

**NORTON LADIES GROUP** Our talk, Chelsea or Bust, by award-winning gardener Claire Hart, aided by Kath Crouch, was very popular. Their exhibit for the Chelsea Flower Show won a Gold Medal in 2013 and had been created within a very tight schedule. Claire showed us what it was like behind the scenes, the chaos and decision-making needed to complete on time, resulting in their impressive award.

**The 25yrs NLG celebration lunch** will be held in **the Lord Nelson on Wednesday 15th July** from midday. We hope this will be another memorable occasion for us to treasure. If anyone has photos of the Ladies Group from 2001–2012, please may we borrow them for this occasion. Contact Sue, number below.

We continue to enjoy a boules roll-up every fourth Tuesday of the month and are looking forward to our first serious game against Norton Boules on Thursday 23rd July. This should be interesting as we will be learning the rules as we go along! We also hope to squeeze in a game of mini golf and pitch & putt into our July calendar.

We are planning an outing to see **Spokey Men's Chorale at Yeovil Westlands on Thursday 30th July**, a quirky Australian men's choir with a varied programme. Please contact Sue if you wish to come along. Sue Lowder  
01935 881805

**THE READING ROOM** Did you know that as well as hosting Amy's tea rooms, The Reading Room is also a second-hand book shop and an IT Help hub. See the Reading Room notice board for information on **printing, laminating and general IT help**. Feel free to browse books during the tea room's opening hours. For access to the books at other times or for **IT help** contact us at [nortonrr.bookings@gmail.com](mailto:nortonrr.bookings@gmail.com) and one of the Reading Room Committee members will be happy to help.

**NORTON COMMUNITY MATTERS** has been liaising with South Western Ambulance Service and have arranged for them to deliver two free CPR and defibrillator awareness sessions (donations welcome on the day). The first session is on **Monday 7th September, 3pm at the Village Hall** and the second session on **Tuesday 8th September, 6.30pm in the Reading Room**. The sessions last about 90 minutes. If you would like to attend, email [helloncm@outlook.com](mailto:helloncm@outlook.com) with your name and preferred session, or put your name down on the sheet in Norton Shop. We are also busy organising a Scarecrow Trail for October – more information to follow. We are delighted to have been able to support the Jubilee Nature Garden by donating £254.20 towards the wood stain preservative treatment for the benches and tables; the Crafty Critters Poppy Cascade project by donating £96.41 towards the purchase of materials, and we are also pleased to donate £3,250 towards the cost of new swings in Minchington Recreation Ground. We have also pledged £100 towards a new tree in the big Rec. Our AGM is on **Thursday 16th July at 6.30pm at the Reading Room** – we would love to see you there. [helloncm@outlook.com](mailto:helloncm@outlook.com)

**NORTON & CHISELBOROUGH FLOWER SHOW** in conjunction with **NORTON MOVIE NITES** are delighted to present MAMMA MIA! (singalong version) in the **Flower Show Marquee on Saturday 15th August**. Optional fancy dress with prizes for best dressed adult and child! Bring your own picnic from 7.45pm. **Film starts at 8.45pm**. Tickets on sale in Norton Shop from 1st July. £5 adults, children under 18 free. A huge thank you to everyone who supported the Flower Show Quiz hosted by Helen and Mark at the Lord Nelson, and to our Quizmaster John

Riley. A total of £565 was raised for Yeovil Freewheelers (Blood Bikes) for which the charity is most grateful.

Now is the time to start planning your entries for the Flower Show. Schedules have been delivered in both villages and are available from Norton Shop, and online through the Facebook page. Entry forms may be emailed in advance to: [janem11@hotmail.com](mailto:janem11@hotmail.com) (BACS sort code: 09-01-52 account number: 73155903) or delivered in person with payment between **7pm and 8pm to the Reading Room on Wednesday 12th August**. Don't forget to polish your cups before returning them! We look forward to welcoming you to the Show on **Saturday 15th August, starting with the procession from the Lord Nelson at 1.30pm** with Steve and his Magic Bike – and yes, the bubble man will be there!

**NORTON VILLAGE COFFEE MORNING.** The coffee morning at Peter Prager's house in May was very successful, with an amazing total of £325 raised for church funds. Many thanks to Peter for kindly hosting, and to all those who came along to support us by buying raffle tickets, contributing to the sales table or making donations. We are taking a break from organising the coffee mornings for the summer and will be back in the autumn. If anyone would like to host a coffee morning, we would love to hear from you. Janet Hutton 01935 881566 and Debbie Bradley 07710 352194

**CHURCH FLAG** The union flag will be flown from the church tower on Friday 17th July for the official birthday of Her Majesty the Queen and the George Cross will be flown for Tower Day on Wednesday 29th July.

**HISTORICAL RESEARCH: WILLIAM E. MICKLEWRIGHT AND HENRY WILSON**  
Is there anyone in Norton who might have some archival documents, photographs or other related material about W. E. Micklewright, manager of the woodwork, stone-carving and quarrying firm of Charles Trask & Sons. Any information about his workshops and the collaborative work with Henry Wilson, the designer, would be much appreciated. Please contact [p.cormack@virginmedia.com](mailto:p.cormack@virginmedia.com) or telephone 020 8204 4758.  
Peter Cormack MBE, FSA, HonFMGP

**MISSING LADY** I am writing to express my most heartfelt gratitude to our wonderful community. When our elderly family friend who has Alzheimer's went missing during the night, the immediate response from everyone in the village was truly overwhelming. Within moments of the

alarm being raised, a large number of neighbours turned out to join the search, showing incredible selflessness and determination. Thanks to your collective vigilance, community spirit, and rapid action, she was found safely. I am absolutely delighted to share that she has now fully recovered from the ordeal and is doing very well back with family. We must also extend our immense thanks to the emergency services who took overwhelming effort, care, and vital resources into the search operation throughout the day. We are incredibly fortunate to live in such a caring, supportive, and close-knit village. Thank you all so very much for being there when it mattered most. Theresa Walsh (The Beeches).

#### **NORTON CHURCH SERVICES IN JULY**

Sunday 5th, 11am morning prayer  
Sunday 12th, 9.30am Communion  
Sunday 19th, 6pm Evensong  
Wednesday 22nd, 9am Communion  
Details of all services and information about the Benefice [www.hamhillchurches.org](http://www.hamhillchurches.org) and church notice boards.

**MOTHER NATURE** Many people proclaim the importance of Mother Nature, singing her praises and supporting her in different ways. More people may believe in her and even 'worship' her more than they do with God. I read in my newspaper of a little boy telling his mother: 'Some people believe in God and some people believe in Mother Nature, but I think Mother Nature may be God's wife.' Gosh, that is food for thought!

#### **FRIENDS OF NORTON CHURCH WINE CLUB**

July winners are John Forrest, Richard More, James Pond, Ronan Walsh, Gill Berrington, Mike & Pam Rastall, Rowena Alsey, Malcolm Reid, David Parkinson, Barry Eastley. If you are interested in joining the Wine Club, please contact Simon on 07943 971566 or email [simonbradley@gmail.com](mailto:simonbradley@gmail.com).

**NORTON BOULES** By the time you read this, Norton Boules (very) Mixed Team will have taken on and hopefully survived the might of the Norton Ladies Division One Boules Squad. If our honour is still intact, we will resume our very sociable Thursday evening boules nights, weather permitting, from 6.30pm each week at Minchington Rec. This public facility is available to use at any time, with a boules set available from the Lord Nelson during opening hours.

**NEW ADVERT – INDEPENDENT DOMESTIC SUPPORT SERVICES** My name is Maxine Taylor and I live in Norton. I am an independent domestic assistant and elderly companion/helper offering support in my local community. I am from an NHS Allied Health professional background, having worked in cancer services for many years in London and Surrey. Services include cleaning, laundry, ironing; companionship and support with admin, emails and letters; grocery shopping, transport and trips out, meal preparation, dog walking and lawn mowing. I hold a current DBS certificate. Hourly rate is £16–£20 per hour depending on support required.  
[maxineaimiee@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:maxineaimiee@yahoo.co.uk). 07469191036

**THE VILLAGE ART GROUP** The Village Art Group brings together like-minded artists from all walks of life. We have a wide range of abilities and talents using many different media. We meet at Stoke Memorial Hall on Tuesday evenings 7.30 to 9:30pm and Friday mornings 10.00 to 12.30pm during school term time. First visit FREE! You still just have time to come along to our workshop with wonderful watercolour artist Emma Keys who will be demonstrating her painting technique on **Saturday 4th July** – don't miss it! Please contact Andrew on 01935 823691, [SSHTheVillageArtistsGroup@gmail.com](mailto:SSHTheVillageArtistsGroup@gmail.com)  
Facebook: Stoke Sub Hamdon The Village Artists Group.

#### **VILLAGE DIARY OF EVENTS**

- Monday 6 July** Crafty Critters, Reading Room, 1.30–3.30pm  
**Tuesday 7 July** Mobile Library and Book Club, Higher Street, 10.10–10.35am  
**Monday 13 July** Parish Council Meeting, committee room, Norton Village Hall, 7.30pm  
**Wednesday 15 July** Ladies Group, 25 years of NLG celebration lunch, Lord Nelson, 12pm  
**Thursday 16 July** Norton Community Matters AGM, Reading Room, 6.30pm  
**Monday 20 July** Crafty Critters, Reading Room, 1.30–3.30pm  
**Saturday 15 August** Procession starting from the Lord Nelson, 1.30pm  
**Saturday 15 August** Norton & Chiselborough Flower Show, 2–5pm  
**Saturday 15 August** Mamma Mia! Singalong, Flower Show marquee, 8.45pm  
**Monday 7 September** CPR & Defibrillator training, Village Hall, 6.30pm  
**Monday 8 September** CPR & Defibrillator training, Reading Room, 6.30pm  
**Saturday 12 September** Super Saturday Village Hall  
**Saturday 24 October** The Village Ceilidh with Curry, Village Hall

